

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS L.S. LOWRY'S ICONIC MASTERPIECE *GOING TO THE MATCH* (1953)

THE PAINTING IS OFFERED BY THE
PLAYERS FOUNDATION TO RAISE VITAL FUNDS FOR
THE CHARITY

ESTIMATED AT £5,000,000-8,000,000
GOING TO THE MATCH IS POISED TO SET A
NEW WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR LOWRY

MODERN BRITISH & IRISH ART EVENING SALE
19 OCTOBER 2022

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L.S. Lowry, *Going to the Match* (1953, estimate: £5,000,000-8,000,000)

- L.S. Lowry's *Going to the Match* is arguably the best known painting by the artist and comes to auction for the first time since 1999

- The painting is being offered by The Players Foundation, registered in England and Wales with charity number 1150458. The proceeds will be used to allow the organisation to continue its charitable work in, amongst other things, assisting with those who have dementia and relieving poverty amongst current or former professional players
- *Going to the Match* was painted for an exhibition in 1953, sponsored by The Football Association, where Lowry won first prize
- *Going to the Match* will be unveiled in Christie's Dubai office from 15 to 24 September 2022 before being exhibited in London from 15 to 19 October, ahead of the auction

LONDON – Christie's will offer L.S. Lowry's iconic painting, *Going to the Match* (1953, estimate: £5,000,000-8,000,000) as the leading highlight of the Modern British & Irish Art Evening Sale on 19 October 2022. The work is being offered by The Players Foundation (registered in England and Wales with charity number 1150458) who will use proceeds from the sale to continue its charitable work in, amongst other things, assisting those with dementia and relieving poverty amongst current or former professional players, having acquired the painting in 1999. *Going to the Match* is a poignant combination of two of the most enduring subjects of Lowry's *oeuvre*: the post-industrial landscape of Northern England and the central role that football and other sporting events played there.

Going to the Match is the largest example from a group of paintings that Lowry made dedicated to the theme of sport in the industrial cities of northern England, which depict the working man at play. *Going to the Match* also captures the universal appeal and allure of the beautiful game of football itself. The work is a picture of a vast, urban scene taken over by the collective movement of a large crowd congregating, seemingly arriving from all directions of the city upon a single point: the structure of a football stadium. The pitch, the site of the football match itself and the event responsible for drawing such a crowd, remains unseen. Such absence captures the tension and anticipation of the main event, and is typical of Lowry's work.

Spokesperson, The Players Foundation: *"Going to the Match has been on display for the last 22 years and we are very proud that we have been able to make sure the British public have had the opportunity to enjoy such a wonderful piece of footballing memorabilia and art. Players Foundation no longer has any income guaranteed, so we have had to completely reposition the charity. The trustees recognise the current financial crisis means we need all the income we can obtain, and all our assets have to function for us to ensure our on-going work. We want to continue to assist people with dementia and provide benevolent grants to those in real financial need, amongst other things. This has led us to the inevitable decision that the Lowry has to be sold in the interests of our beneficiaries."*

Nick Orchard, Head of Modern British & Irish Art, Christie's: *"Lowry mastered a distance in his art that offered him the opportunity to present his viewers with an entire scene unfolding before them, as Pieter Breugel had done before him. He used this displacement to great effect, often allowing people within the crowd to articulate the event itself. There is no greater example of this than *Going to the Match* and Christie's is honoured to work with The Players Foundation to present the painting at auction as the focal point of the Modern British & Irish Art Evening Sale."*

Lowry believed that crowds of people, with their individual characteristics, created unique patterns. These rhythms, he felt, revealed much about that person and their purpose for being present within the scene. This lifelong pursuit to capture what he described as the 'battle of life' continues to enthral audiences internationally. Having previously been on long-term loan to The Lowry in Salford, Manchester, *Going to the Match* will be unveiled in Christie's Dubai office from 15 to 24 September 2022 before being exhibited in London from 15 to 19 October, ahead of its auction.

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About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

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years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's Salvator Mundi](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's Shot Sage Blue Marilyn](#), 2022), for a single charitable collection sale (the [Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller](#), 2018), and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' Rabbit](#), 2019).

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